

yield perhaps the most complete skeleton of a Cetacean ever discovered) described by William Sharp MacLeay. As it is, my feeble efforts must suffice; and being under deep obligations to the greatest naturalist Australia ever had, I wish to pay a slight tribute to his memory by proposing the name of *Euphysetes macleayi* for this new species.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

(taken from the photographs forwarded by Mr. Krcfft).

- Fig. 1. Outline of the whole animal.  
 2. Snout seen from below.  
 3. Upper surface of skull.  
 4. Under surface of skull.  
 5. Side view of skull, showing teeth *in situ*.  
 6. Bones of the pectoral limb. (Added from a photograph received subsequently to the original communication.)

14. ON A SUPPOSED NEW SPECIES OF FIN-WHALE FROM THE COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA. BY DR. H. BURMEISTER, FOR. MEMB.\*

I now send you the drawing of a bladebone of another species of Whale, which I received a few days since from a friend of mine for our Museum. The bone is taken from a skeleton of an animal cast on shore on the coast of the Samboramban Basin, near the mouth of the river Salado, to the south of Buenos Ayres; but as the people in the vicinity found that the vertebræ were very good to make chairs for their houses, they cut off the spines, and brought home only the bodies; each of them is said to be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot high. This bladebone was sent by the keeper of the farm there to the owner in Buenos Ayres, who has promised me to write immediately to his officer to send all the bones not yet broken to Buenos Ayres, when I hope I shall be able to send you further information. But the skull is said to be already entirely broken up and destroyed.

The bladebone is of an enormous size; and therefore I thought, before I had seen it, that it might belong to a true *Balæna*; but now that it is in my hands I find that it must belong to a Fin-Whale, because it is much broader than high. As you say in your paper that *Megaptera* has no coracoid process, or has only a very small one, this bladebone cannot belong to that genus; and therefore I suppose, from the enormous size, it may be that of a species of *Sibbaldius*, to which genus belong the largest Balænopteriidæ. It seems to be an unknown species, and, as I find no mention in your papers of such a Whale in this part of the southern hemisphere, I propose the name of *Sibbaldius antarcticus* for it; but you may change the name if you believe another more convenient.

I give you the description of the bone. It is mostly flat, and has the general figure of the third part of a circle, being half as high as broad. The outer margin is regularly curved, with an indication of

\* Extracted from a letter addressed by the author to Dr. J. E. Gray.

an obtuse angle on the hinder part of the circumference; towards the glenoid cavity it becomes much thicker, and has here the thickness of the diameter of that cavity. On the outside (fig. 1) the surface is somewhat excavated, with the indication of an obtuse radial crest on the fore part of the hinder half; on the inside the surface is flatter, and has five long and three short, obtuse radial elevated lines. The fore margin is thin, with the indication of an obtuse angle in the upper half, and under that angle are two descending small spines. The hinder margin is somewhat curved inwards, but more straight in the middle of its course. The acromion is a very large compressed process, which is somewhat broader and rounded at the end, and with two obtuse prominences on the under margin near to the base. The upper margin is very sharp, and continued on the outside of the bladebone as a sharp prominent crest. The coracoid process is half the size of the former, and

Fig. 1.

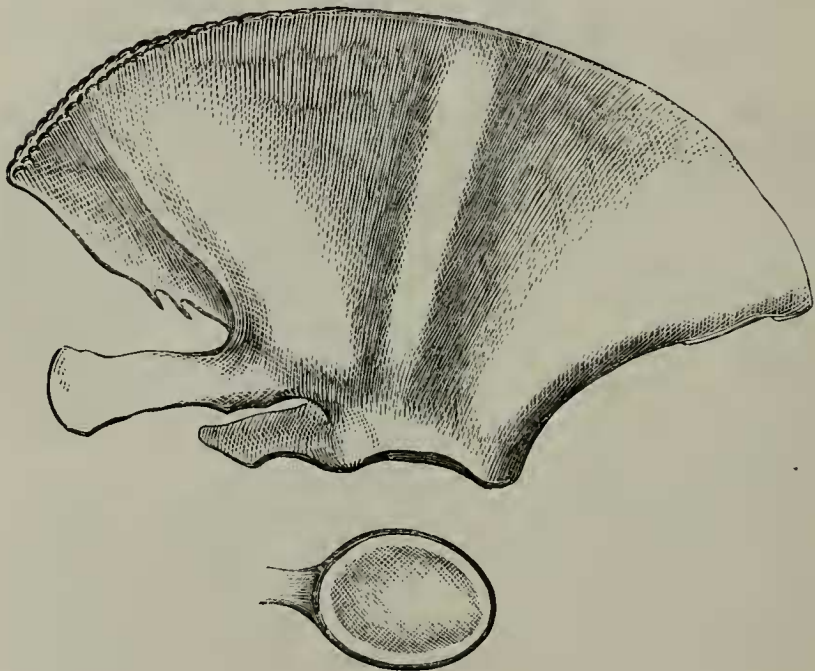


Fig. 2.

obliquely truncated at the end. The glenoid cavity (fig. 2) is a broad ellipse of a longitudinal diameter of 14 inches, and a transverse of 11 inches, but somewhat more curved on the outer than the inner side. The whole bladebone measures 6 feet from before backwards, and 3 feet from above downwards. If a horizontal line be drawn from the anterior to the posterior angle, the upper part of the vertical line which it intersects is 1 foot 11 inches high, the lower part 2 feet 1 inch. The acromion is 1 foot  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and 7 to

9 inches broad; the coracoid process measures 11 inches in length, and 5 inches in breadth.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES.

- Fig. 1. Outer surface of *scapula* of *Sibbaldius antarcticus*.  
2. Outline of the glenoid cavity.

15. ON A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY OF DIDINE BONES IN RODRIGUEZ. BY ALFRED NEWTON, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S.

When, a few months ago, I exhibited to the Society three bones of a species of Didine bird which had lately been found in Rodriguez by my brother and Captain Barclay\* (P. Z. S. 1865, pp. 199–201), and expressed the opinion that a rich reward awaited the careful explorer of the caves in that island, I had little notion that the fulfilment of my anticipation was so near at hand. Though I was sure that my brother's partial success would make him redouble his efforts to organize a systematic search of the caverns he had hurriedly visited in 1864 (see *Ibis*, 1865, pp. 146–154), yet the failure which had attended his many previous attempts to inspire others with the zeal he himself felt forbade me to be sanguine and to expect that any good or important results would immediately follow. It was therefore with extreme gratification that, while attending the meeting of the British Association at Birmingham at the beginning of September last, I received from him a letter, dated "Mauritius, 3rd August, 1865," from which the following is an extract:—

\* \* \* "Two days ago I received from Mr. George Jenner, the Magistrate of Rodriguez—to whom be all honour—a box containing Turtles' and Birds' bones. With pleasure I divided them, and found that of the latter there are remains of no less than *sixteen* or *seventeen* individuals! They are all apparently of one species, but of two sizes, the difference in this respect being probably owing to sex. The most plentiful bones are tibiæ, of which there are two or three quite perfect, the antero-proximal ends being well preserved. There are also several very good femora and metatarsi, three portions of pelvis (showing most conclusively that they did not belong to a Struthious bird), one anterior end of a coracoid (showing the same fact), several humeri of both sizes, an ulna and two radii, and a phalanx of the middle toe. Of these, I believe that the upper end of the tibia, the portions of the pelvis and of the coracoid, the ulna, radius, and phalanx are bones which have not before been found, and are therefore doubly valuable. I retain here a couple of perfect legs of the two sizes for our Museum; but the rest I am sending home by this mail. It will be seen that there is one tibia which is much longer than any of the others; it is not a perfect one; but there is such a strong resemblance between them all that I feel sure they are but of

\* By a blunder on my part I before mistook this gentleman for a son of Sir Henry Barkly, the Governor of Mauritius, to whom he is aide-de-camp, and I consequently misspelt his name, which should be written as above.